



02-277

Dr. Mha Atma S. Khalsa
1536 Crest Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

May 1, 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 09 2003

Dear Commissioner Martin,

Distribution Center

I strongly urge that the FCC abandon its plan to end long-standing and critical safeguards that have served as an important "check and balance" system to help ensure diversity of media ownership. Under the proposal you are considering, one company in a community will be able to own the newspaper, several TV and radio stations, the cable system, and the principal Internet access company. There will be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide. This will very badly damage true media diversity and competition. A competitive and diverse media is absolutely essential to ensure an informed citizenry and a healthy and vibrant democracy.

Eliminating these last remaining protections of the public trust would constitute a complete abandonment of the FCC's mission to ensure that our airwaves, which are owned by all Americans, are used in a manner which ensures the diverse range of voices and opinions needed in a healthy democracy. Loss of these protections would constitute a huge and unacceptable giveaway of public resources and political power to a few large and powerful media companies.

Further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues. Americans depend upon the media to bring us information that will allow us to make the informed choices necessary for the well-being of our nation and our future.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I urge you to reject the current proposal to abandon the last remaining controls on media consolidation. Instead, I strongly urge you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Mha Atma S. Khalsa

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Los Angeles, CA 90035

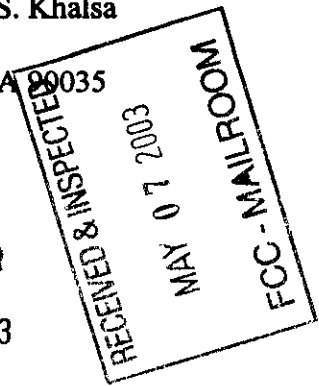
May 1, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
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445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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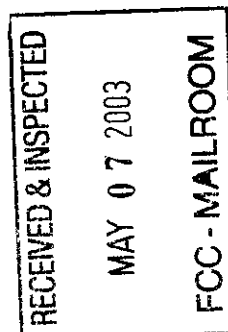
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Dr. Mha Atma S. Khalsa

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Mike & Alexandra Shimizu

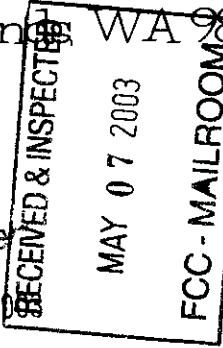
18923 Olympic View Dr., Edmonds WA 98020

May 2, 2003

Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 09 2003



Re: *media ownership hearings*

Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Martin:

How can we adequately express the growing alienation, mistrust and outright anger we feel at the state of broadcast media these days? Since 1996 and the media consolidation frenzy, sensible intelligent public discourse not to mention truth and fairness are nearly impossible to find in any commercial electronic medium. Instead, we are assaulted with hot talk, ignorant assertions, fallacious reasoning and any extreme sensationalism that will hold an audience. It doesn't seem to matter what level of audience, it's a numbers game. Intelligent, thoughtful, two-way dialogue is regarded as dead air. The Fairness Doctrine along with the ethical obligation to broadcast in the public interest is gone. Media moguls even brag about their purpose being to "sell our customers products,"* not provide accurate or fair viewpoints.

The future of our country is past the point of a crossroad. The damage is done. But, it may not be too late to change this insidious direction. Please delay your June 2 decision and hold a series of public hearings on the subject of media ownership and the public interest. Along with that, the hearings should revisit the provisions of the '96 telecommunications act and the fallout since. This is far too important for you to ignore. Our country is being torn apart by the profit motive and vicious personalities now controlling electronic media. We need your help and leadership desperately.

Sincerely,

Mike & Alexandra Shimizu

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Shimizu

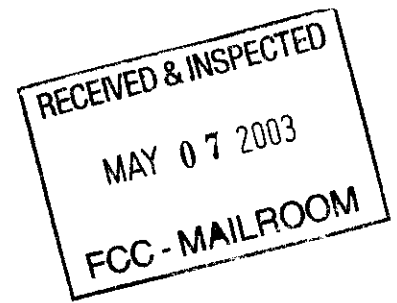
P.S. The public owns the airwaves. Why are they given away for free to people whose only interest is making money?

* Lowery Mays, owner of Clear Channel radio in a recent interview published in Fortune magazine, as noted in the May 2003 issue of AdBusters magazine.

O: 425-778-6094 / C: 206-755-6302

mkshimizu@attbi.com or alexproent.com

Elisabeth Gleckler
7713 Sycamore Street
New Orleans, LA 70118-4224



May 2, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Attn: Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear Commissioner Copps:

I read the following quote in Fortune Magazine in the March 2003 edition:

"If anyone said we were in the radio business, it wouldn't be someone from our company.... We're not in the business of providing news and information. We're not in the business of providing well-researched music. We're simply in the business of selling our customers products."

- Clear Channel founder and CEO Lowry Mays

Diversity of opinion, ideas and communications is important in a democracy, and contributes to quality of life. I commend you in your efforts to slow down the process of deregulation of media that is being promoted by Commissioner Michael Powell. Delaying the decision and instigating a truly well informed and complete debate would not harm anyone. It would, instead, help generate healthy discussion about the goal of the public's airwaves and help create a better-informed public.

Thank you for working for the delay and debate and please continue to work for that end.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Gleckler", written over the printed name.

Elisabeth Gleckler

Confirmed

MAY 09 2003

Distribution Center

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 07 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

Dear Michael Powell,

I highly respect your father. That said, I have to tell you I am hoping what I read of you is less than accurate. I'm willing to give you the benefit of the doubt as I write this letter.

I understand that the FCC is looking at changing the rules of who can own what media and how many stations or networks. The current rules are barely adequate and any lessening of their stringency should not be even considered.

In my area Clear Channel radio owns the majority of stations and the result is that all I can get is one-sided news and play-time music that varies little from station to station. If it wasn't for NPR I'd be almost without choices.

I don't like that young artists are turned away by my local stations because they are not on the play list. I don't like that all the news is not aired and different voices are not heard. I don't like that Clear Channel is behind boycotting the Dixie Chicks. If I care to boycott it should be my idea and not one planted by a corporation with suspect motives.

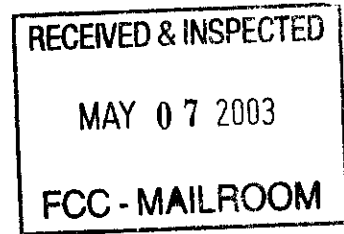
I don't want that scarcity of voices to be replicated in TV and newspapers. Our choices are far too limited already. Do not weaken the rules!

Sincerely,
Judith Sullens

April 30, 2003

Kevin J. Martin, FCC
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed
MAY 09 2003
Distribution Center



Dear Mr. Martin:

As involved citizens in this democracy, we are concerned and worried that the FCC may soon propose media deregulation that will allow large corporations even more control of the publicly owned airways than they already have. We understand that the date of June 2, 2003, has been set for FCC voting on this issue. We believe that the public's right to important controversial information untainted by corporate interest and propaganda is at stake here. We urge the FCC to vote for corporate limits on radio ownership, network ownership of TV stations, and cross-ownership.

The FCC's Michael Copps is reported to have said at a recent FCC forum on media ownership at Northwestern University's Chicago Law School, "Apart from war and peace, no issues confronting America are as important." As educated citizens interested in public affairs, we agree. Mr. Copps is reported also to have said, "Three-quarters of the American people do not know this issue is before the FCC." We fear he may be correct and that a "conspiracy of silence" may exist as large corporate-owned newspapers and network radio/TV stations fail to report on this very issue. And isn't the bigger point regarding the dangers of media deregulation made as we tell you that we learned about this issue by reading a smaller, independent newspaper?

We observe that stories of crime and violence dominate local news coverage by network-affiliated TV stations in our area. We wonder why a wide range of other events and issues isn't covered. Is it not natural for us to infer that the large corporations—such as Viacom, GE, Disney, News Corp., and AOL/Time Warner—who own these stations encourage them to air stories that "sell" . . . rather than other less sensational stories which would inform and educate? Again, I remind you that we did not learn about important issues currently before the FCC on national or local network news programs.

We urge the FCC to impose even more, not fewer, regulations on those few large corporations who have so much control over the publicly owned airways. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is "Peter Sherer" and the second is "Rebecca Hill".

Peter Sherer
Rebecca Hill

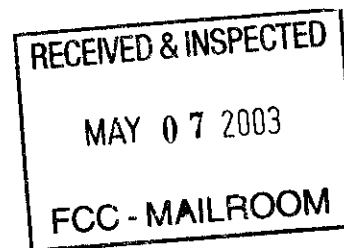
Mike & Alexandra Shimizu

18923 Olympic View Dr., Edmonds, WA 98020

May 2, 2003

Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed
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Distribution Center



Re: media ownership hearings

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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The future of our country is past the point of a crossroad. The damage is done. But, it may not be too late to change this insidious direction. Please delay your June 2 decision and hold a series of public hearings on the subject of media ownership and the public interest. Along with that, the hearings should revisit the provisions of the '96 telecommunications act and the fallout since. This is far too important for you to ignore. Our country is being torn apart by the profit motive and vicious personalities now controlling electronic media. We need your help and leadership desperately.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Shimizu

P.S. The public owns the airwaves. Why are they given away for free to people whose only interest is making money?

* Lowery Mays, owner of Clear Channel radio in a recent interview published in Fortune magazine, as noted in the May 2003 issue of AdBusters magazine.

O: 425-778-6094 / C: 206-755-6302

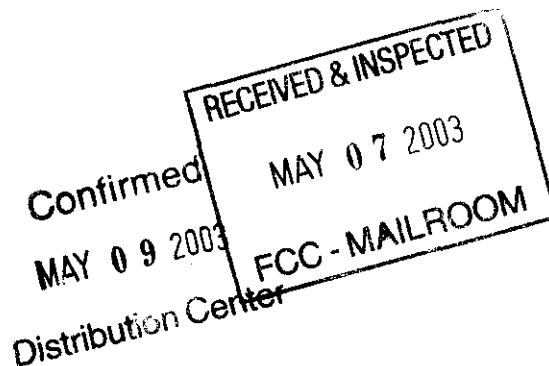
mkshimizu@ttbi.com or alexproent.com

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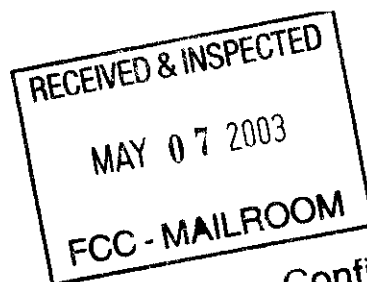
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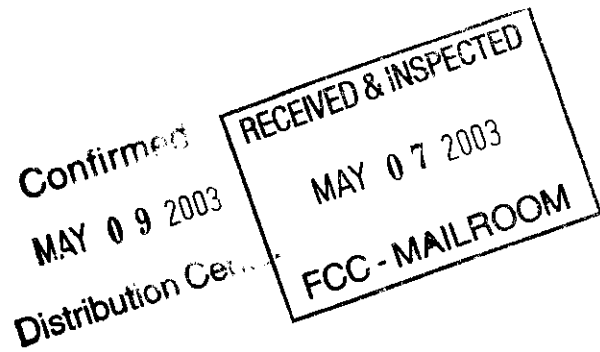
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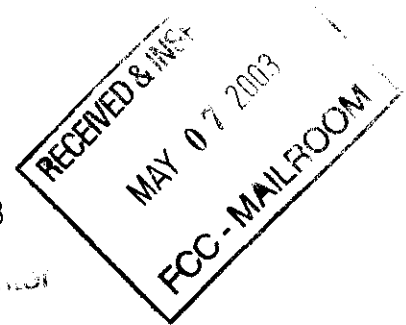
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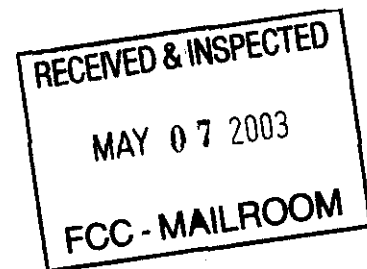
mkshimizu@tbi.com or alexproent.com

EX PARTE OR LETTER FILED

April 30, 2003

Michael K. Powell, FCC Chairman
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed
MAY 09 2003
Distribution Center



Dear Mr. Powell:

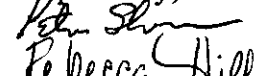
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Rebecca Hill

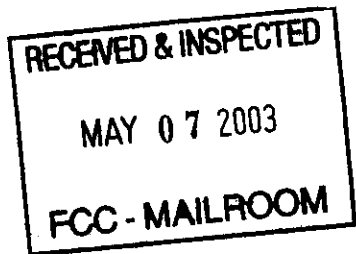
cc. Michael Copps

R.E. Van Velkinburgh
R.E. Van Velkinburgh
2081 West Craig Lane
Syracuse, Utah 84075

EX PARTE OR LATE

April 24, 2003

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary
445 12th St., SW
Room fw-204B
Washington D.C. 20554



Confirmed
MAY 09 2003
Distribution Center

A rectangular stamp with a double border. The text is arranged in three lines: "Confirmed" at the top, "MAY 09 2003" in the middle, and "Distribution Center" at the bottom.

Dear Commission,

I am greatly concerned about possible media ownership de-regulation. Already, the nation's seven largest cable television operators control more than 75% of the market. For the health and fairness of our society, we must actively maintain diversity within media sources. It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure this. Negligence to do this would be a great travesty. Please act on behalf of an educated and balanced society.

Thank You,

Mimi Hazell

20 Carroll PLACE

City

state

zip

Staten Island, NY 10301

Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

5/1/03

Dear Mr. Powell:

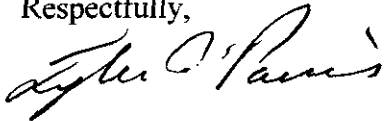
As you work toward regulations governing broadband usage and telephone companies, I am writing to ask that you not enable phone companies to interfere with consumers' choice of broadband equipment or destinations. Phone companies say they currently don't plan to limit consumer choices, but any of us who have worked in the business world for any time know that organizational priorities and goals can change over time, and in the end, consumers could get the shaft.

Ironically, the regulations pending at the FCC are shaping up at the same time as a young baseball season. I'm reminded of the recent "licensing" fees instituted by Major League Baseball regarding which bats can be sold to and bought by major league baseball players, all in pursuit of a noble goal -- lowering insurance costs. This interference by MLB has already squeezed several small-name bat manufacturers out of the major league market, closing their businesses and leaving major league baseball players -- the consumers in this situation -- with fewer choices of bats. It's a no-win situation.

I like to think the FCC is pursuing a win-win situation for me and for all businesses, not just one or two large phone companies. Please don't let my broadband connection become like major league bats. In the pursuit of a noble goal, to bring the short-term cost of broadband down, please do not allow phone companies to squeeze device manufacturers out of business and leave us, the consumers, with fewer choices. After all, more consumer choice and a stronger, more competitive manufacturing base is the home run our economy has been looking for.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

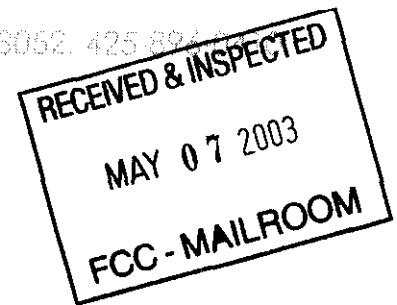
Respectfully,



Tyler A. Parris

Attachments: articles with more in-depth discussions supporting my position and the position of many consumers and businesses alike.

Confirmed
MAY 09 2003
Distribution Center





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on the
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Preserving Freedom to Roam the Net

As the Internet gains speed, policymakers must safeguard its freewheeling soul

Posted April 28, 2003

Americans' freedom to connect to the Internet and roam wherever they choose in cyberspace could be jeopardized by decisions now pending in Washington. Ironically, the threat arises from regulatory proposals aimed at a laudable goal: promoting broadband Internet service.

Several times faster than a dial-up phone connection, broadband is delivered primarily via cable modem or over a phone company's Digital Subscriber Line (DSL). It makes Web surfing more fun and productive, and as more households sign up, its speed and "always-on" capability will drive many innovative online services. In time, it will be the prevailing way to access the Internet.

The Federal Communications Commission is developing a regulatory framework to make broadband more widely available at a lower cost. But the FCC could unintentionally hurt the interests of consumers if it does not retain the rules that have protected freedom to use the Net.

Currently, when consumers use a dial-up connection, phone companies cannot interfere with their choice of equipment or destination. This non-interference rule has benefited consumers with a proliferation of telecommunications services and devices—more than 34,000 different devices, including inexpensive hand sets, fax machines and computers. Yet, the FCC may decide to exempt all broadband providers from this simple rule that encourages innovation and results in more choices for consumers.

Some broadband providers say the rule should not apply to them because they intend to continue allowing customers to use a variety of equipment to go anywhere they want on the Internet. But this one FCC rule, which has served the nation well for decades, assures that consumers will always be able to connect with new devices and new online content and services, regardless of how an access provider's business model or management might evolve.

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[CNET News.com on broadband non-interference.](#)

[Open letter to the FCC \(pdf file\)](#)
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[Coalition for broadband innovation \(pdf file\)](#)
[Release announcing formation of the Coalition of Broadband Users and Innovators.](#)

In general, less regulation of technology is better than more. But the existing non-interference rule has been key to the Internet's growth and vitality. To abandon it now could inhibit further development of Net content, technologies and services. This belief unites Microsoft with a broad coalition of consumer groups and companies, from Apple Computer and Amazon.com to Yahoo! and the Yankees Entertainment and Sports Network.

As America enters the broadband age, policymakers should preserve the Net's benefits by reaffirming a basic principle: consumers, so long as they do not harm the network, should be free to access all lawful Internet content and use the applications and devices of their choice.

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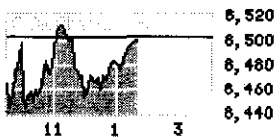
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Hot Topics**Company Watch****Careers****Events****Archives**
 Posted on Fri, Apr. 25,
 2003
The Mercury News**Firms call for open high-speed Net**
 By Heather Fleming Phillips
 Mercury News Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON

-Leading technology, consumer electronics and entertainment companies -- including Amazon.com, Microsoft and Walt Disney -- have joined together to lobby the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules preserving the free-flowing nature of the Internet.

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The group, known as the Coalition of Broadband Users and Innovators, is raising fears that the FCC could fundamentally alter the Internet by adopting rules that could allow providers of broadband services to favor certain services and Internet sites.

The FCC could take action within a couple of months.

If that happens, they say, the Internet could evolve into a cable-TV-like system, where providers of high-speed Internet access could steer subscribers toward affiliated Internet sites. The network owners could also limit the types of devices that could be connected to their network, potentially stifling innovation, the groups says.

"Manufacturers' investment and willingness to innovate in this area undoubtedly will evaporate if network operators have the right to veto what devices their customers can attach," said Consumer Electronics Association President Gary Shapiro.

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At issue are two separate ongoing FCC proceedings looking into how cable-modem and digital-subscriber-line service provided by phone companies should be regulated.

While these two forms of broadband directly compete in many cities, they are currently regulated in different ways. Phone companies are required to provide Internet service providers non-discriminatory access to their networks, while cable companies can pick and choose among ISPs.

As the commission looks at creating a more even regulatory framework for broadband, the lobbying coalition is worried that the more closed cable regulations will be imposed on all broadband services. It wants the FCC to adopt rules specifying that the basic open framework that has allowed the Internet to thrive is preserved.

The cable-TV industry has said there's no reason to adopt such rules, because it has no intention of discriminating against Web sites or limiting new technologies.

"Supporters of government-imposed regulations of the Internet are using scare tactics to ask for a government solution to a problem that does not exist. Forcing vague regulatory requirements on broadband providers runs contrary to the spirit of the Internet and would only stifle investment, innovation and growth of broadband services," said National Cable and Telecommunications Association spokesman Brian Dietz.

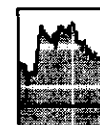
But Chris Murray, Internet and telecommunications counsel for Consumers Union, said there is already reason to be concerned. He pointed to regulations adopted by Cox Communications preventing subscribers from using their cable-modem service to link up to their offices using virtual private networks, or VPNs, unless they pay a heftier fee.

He also noted that Time Warner Cable last year sent letters to a handful of subscribers telling them to "cease and desist" using WiFi networking equipment outside of their homes.

Contact Heather Phillips at hphillips@krwashington.com or (202) 383-6020.



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Tech companies ask for unfiltered Net

By [Declan McCullagh](#)
Staff Writer, CNET News.com
November 18, 2002, 4:45 PM PT

WASHINGTON—A coalition of technology companies warned on Monday that cable companies might try to interpose themselves as gatekeepers between customers and Internet content.

In a three-page letter to the Federal Communications Commission, the group, which includes Amazon.com, Apple Computer, Microsoft and others, called on the agency to preserve Internet users' "unfettered ability to reach lawful content and services and to communicate and interact with each other."

"Despite our differences on the details of a solution, we are unanimous in our agreement that the government must ensure that transmission network operators do not encumber relationships between their customers and destinations on the network," read the letter from the ad-hoc alliance, called the Coalition of Broadband Users and Innovators.

The FCC is reviewing the rules that will apply to cable and other forms of high-speed Internet access.

Andrew Schwartzman of the [Media Access Project](#), which is a member of the coalition, admits that the group's concerns are hypothetical so far.

"There are practices in place that do have a discriminatory effect in minor ways," Schwartzman said. "Selective caching of favored content providers is in use now."

Schwartzman said he's worried because cable companies' contracts with their customers might permit the practice.

"What is undeniable is that there are clear assertions in the various cable operators' user agreements asserting the right to do this and much more," Schwartzman said. "They're preserving their legal authority to do this."

In comments filed with the FCC in June, Amazon.com argued that "it is not sufficient for the (commission) to delay regulation until anticonsumer behaviors become apparent. The commission needs to send a strong signal from the very start that consumer choice of Internet-based information, products and services is inviolate."

Free-market advocates assert that there's no need for the FCC to intervene, saying there

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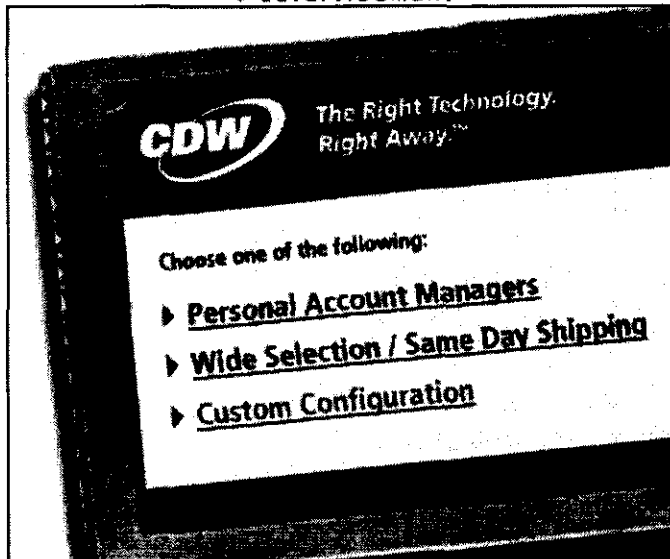
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has been no evidence of any problems so far, and even if problems arise, consumers tend to choose an Internet provider with fewer restrictions.

"I don't think it's a worry," said Wayne Crews, an analyst at the [Cato Institute](#). "What we have to do is let different business models flourish. What you may find is that some broadband providers want to be closed and others want to be fully open. We don't know. Regulators don't know. It's ridiculous for the FCC to regulate this when we don't know what tomorrow's networks are going to look like."

Other members of the Coalition of Broadband Users and Innovators include the Consumer Electronics Association, eBay, the Walt Disney Company and Yahoo.

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